



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
On the Health of the  
**Pebworth Rural District**  
IN THE  
**County of Gloucester**  
For the Year 1912.

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BY  
**D. GORDON EVANS, M.D., D.P.H., Oxon.,**  
Medical Officer of Health.

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# To the Pebworth Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to furnish you with my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary administration of your District for 1912.

In doing so I have much pleasure by stating, at the outset, that the health of your District during the year under observation has been exceptionally good. Forty per cent. of the deaths being over 70 years of age.

## A. Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

These conditions remain unaltered, and were fully described in my Annual Reports for 1906 and 1910. I may, however, mention that the characteristic unevenness of the Worcestershire boundary causes your district to be entirely divided into two parts by the Parish of Broadway.

## B. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

**Water Supply.**—The supply of pure, wholesome drinking water to all the villages situated in your district was ample and sufficient for all purposes throughout the year. A periodical bacteriological and chemical analysis of the waters supplying these villages was undertaken, and all samples submitted were found entirely free from any contamination. Neither have any of these waters any plumbo solvent action.

The Evesham and Pebworth Villages Waterworks intend to augment their supply by taking up a 99 years' lease from Lord Elcho for six additional springs situate in Lidcombe Wood, in the Parish of Stanway.

Four of the villages situated in your district receive their water supply from this source, and which were named in my last Annual Report.

During the year the extension of a main from the above-named source of supply at Honeybourne was conducted to Buckle Street, Pebworth. This is utilized for the purpose of supplying seven cottages situated on the County Council Smallholdings Land. Besides this a farmhouse at Ullington, near Pebworth, has also been supplied from this newly-laid main.

**Rivers and Streams.**—At present there is no pollution of any stream within the district.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—At Aston Subedge the work of covering in the sewer ditches and surface water drains, which was referred to in my last Annual Report, has now been completed. The result being that we have not since received any further complaints of nuisances caused by emanations and obnoxious effluvia therefrom.

At Ashton-under-Hill, owing to numerous stoppages of the surface water ditch drains, which it is practically impossible to rectify, your surveyor is now preparing a scheme for dealing with the sewage in the lower part of this village. The upper part of the village has already a modern and efficient scheme that works thoroughly satisfactory.

In the other villages of your district the sewers and sewer ditches have been periodically cleansed, and cause no trouble.

Scavenging is undertaken by the householders themselves, who utilize the refuse on their market garden lands by mixing it with other manure.

**Schools.**—In my Report for 1911 I pointed out the vital importance of having the Public Elementary Schools properly and scientifically ventilated. In the same Report I showed how very necessary it was for the health of the scholars to have the classroom windows made to open from the top to the bottom, so that every classroom could be thoroughly flushed with pure fresh air from the outside during the out-of-school hours of the children. It is utterly impossible to rid any classroom of all the stagnant and foul air by means of a hopper sash or ventilating radiators alone without the above adjunct. Impure air causes all manner of illhealth. Tuberculosis in all its deadly forms is immensely aggravated by breathing air deficient in



oxygen. Adenoids, enlarged tonsils, anæmia, decayed teeth, &c., are also caused by bad air, and children who are quite free from these complaints before their compulsory school days are constantly seen to develop them afterwards. The statistics of the recent school inspections prove the frequency of these affections amongst the school children attending our Public Elementary Schools. Elaborate and costly buildings with closed-in classrooms are quite unnecessary to educate the young. A much more hygienic construction would be a light building made to open entirely and to shut at will on its southern aspect. During the cold weather this could be effectually warmed with hot water pipes.

In the course of the year the Cow Honeybourne Infant School was closed from January 10th to February 2nd owing to the prevalence of measles.

The Willersey Voluntary School was also closed from October 16th to November 8th on account of the same disease.

## **Food.**

**(a) Milk Supply.**—For the purpose of supplying a pure, wholesome and disease-free article, in my opinion, the following requisites are essential :—

- 1.—Healthy animals for milking purposes.
- 2.—Clean and well ventilated cowsheds, with a supply of pure water.
- 3.—Groomed cows, with clean udders.
- 4.—Clean and sterilised utensils for receiving the milk.
- 5.—Clean hands and overalls for the milkers.
- 6.—Efficient straining and cooling of the milk before it is despatched in sterilised milk cans.
- 7.—Milk cans as recommended in my Annual Report for the year 1910.

All the Registered Dairies in your district have been periodically visited during the year, and have been found satisfactory.

**(b) Other Foods.**—The only Registered Slaughter-house, which is situated at Weston Subedge, has been visited and found quite satisfactory.

The Bakehouses are limewashed twice a year in accordance with the Bye-laws.

**(c) Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**—These Acts are administered in the County of Gloucestershire by the Police under the direction of the Chief Constable.

**Housing.**—In pursuance of the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 (under the Inspection of District Regulations of September, 1910), the village of Ashton-under-Hill and a part of Cow Honeybourne have been during the year systematically inspected by the Officer appointed by you for that purpose. The total number of houses dealt with were 50. Twenty-nine of these were found dilapidated, and some had unsatisfactory closet accommodation as well. There were three totally unfit for habitation, but since one of them has been made habitable. Twenty-three notices had to be served. Five cases of overcrowding were reported, and of these four were abated. Seven houses were cleansed on notice, and nine other houses were dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

During the course of the year a petition was presented to your Council by the Parish Council of Pebworth asking for a provision of 10 houses to be erected in their parish. Your Council is now negotiating for the purchase of an acre of ground to do so.

## **C. Sanitary Administration of the District.**

The work done by your Sanitary Inspector for the year is appended in a tabular form at the end of my Report. From this it will be observed that he inspected 24 Dairies and Cowsheds, 5 Bakehouses, 1 Slaughter-house, 13 Workshops and 43 Residences of Outworkers, *i.e.*, Gloveresses. The number of Nuisances reported by him to the Council were 31, and of these 30 were abated. The only house in which Scarlet Fever occurred was disinfected by him, together with three others where Tuberculosis had existed.

The administration of the Joint Hospital for the reception of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurring in your district was fully reported on in my last Annual Report.

## **D. Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Disease.**

A circular letter has been issued by the Chief Medical Officer of the Local Government Board to all Medical Officers of Health requesting them to compare the incidence of the various Infectious Diseases occurring within their respective areas with those of other districts in the immediate neighbourhood. Your district, I am very pleased to note, bears the most possible favourable record in comparison to the immediate districts of the Evesham Rural and Evesham Urban. No less than 68 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the Evesham Urban District, and 65 in the Evesham Rural District, during the year ; whereas only one case of Scarlet Fever originated in the Pebworth District. I attribute the freedom of this disease from your district to be due to the very active measures which both myself and your Sanitary Inspector took at the end of 1911 in stamping out the fever. The schools where the fever threatened were thoroughly cleansed, disinfected and closed for a time. The Rural District of Winchcombe, with a population larger than the Evesham Rural District, also compares favourably with these two districts by only having to record the occurrence of 12 cases of Scarlet Fever for the whole year.

Besides the cases of Scarlet Fever, the only other case of infectious notifiable disease reported to me was one of Erysipelas as having occurred within your district.

## **E. Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.**

All the measures which I have recommended in order to combat this dreaded disease has been immediately adopted by your Council. These consist in supplying the patients with spittoons and paper handkerchiefs for dealing with the expectoration, &c.



Distribution of literature instructing the patients and their relations as to the manner of dealing with the sputum and other discharges, also how to avoid spreading the disease to others, and the hygienic conditions most suitable for the cure of the disease where possible. In the cases where proper isolation cannot be secured, you have also decided to supply the patients with shelters. The final measures adopted by you are a thorough disinfection and cleansing of the premises.

## **F. Investigation of Other Diseases.**

In order to facilitate the investigation into the causes and incidence of the diseases known as Cerebro-spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis you have caused these to be included under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts, in accordance with my suggestion. On my recommendation you have also made Ophthalmia Neonatorum a notifiable disease under the Act, as well as Varicella when Small-pox is present in any of the surrounding districts.

## **G. Means of Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.**

The administration of the Midwives' Act, 1902, is carried out by the County Council for Gloucestershire, and does not therefore appertain to your Council.

The Notification of Births' Act, 1907, has not yet been adopted by the County Authorities. In order to aid in the prevention of Infantile Mortality, and also to facilitate the dealing with the Notifiable Disease Ophthalmia Neonatorum, its early adoption by the County Council would be more advantageous than otherwise.

## **H. Vital Statistics of the District.**

The number of Births registered in 1912 show an increase as compared with the three preceding years, and is also slightly above the average for the past 15 years. This compares most favourably with other Rural Districts, because the majority of them exhibit a declining Birth Rate.

There has only been one death registered from Zymotic Disease, and the Infantile Mortality is extremely low in comparison with other



districts. More than half the deaths recorded in Table III. are included in Column 10. Organic Heart Disease includes the highest number of any one specified class of disease, the rate being 2·4 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from the different forms of Tuberculosis is highly favourable, being only 0·9 per 1,000 of the population.

A Report by your Sanitary Inspector is also appended to my Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. GORDON EVANS, M.D., D.P.H. (Oxon).

April 17th, 1913.

# **The Report of the Sanitary Inspector.**

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1912.

## **Housing.**

During the year I have made a house to house survey in the Parish of Ashton-under-Hill. Fifty houses were inspected; in 29, defects were found, and 32 notices were ordered to be served. As a result of the work carried out there is a marked improvement in the sanitation of this Village. No houses were closed. I am now making a survey of the houses in the Parish of Cow Honeybourne, the largest parish in your district.

As foreseen at the time of writing my last Annual Report, a difficulty has arisen in the Parish of Pebworth with regard to the housing. As a result a petition was received from the Parish Council for the erection of 10 Cottages, and but for the difficulty of obtaining land this matter would have been in hand. However we hope to prepare a scheme to be carried out this summer.

Two cottages have been erected during the year, and 5 cases of overcrowding dealt with.

## **Sewerage and Drainage.**

I am now preparing drawings for the sewerage of the lower end of the village of Ashton-under-Hill. It is proposed to carry out this work at an early date out of revenue. The upper portion of the village has an efficient modern sewer.

There have been 8 house drains laid, 9 cleansed, trapped or ventilated, 19 new W.C's, E.C's, or improved privies provided, and 11 privies repaired.

## **Water Supplies.**

A Water Main has been extended from Honeybourne towards Pebworth. Several houses were connected *en route*.

The various supplies have proved ample throughout the year, and we have received no complaints. The usual samples have been submitted and reported as satisfactory.

### **Food Supplies.**

The Slaughter-house at Weston Subedge, which is the only one in your district, has been kept in a cleanly state, and the quality of the meats slaughtered therein has been excellent.

The Bakehouses are quite satisfactory, and are kept regularly limewashed.

The Milk Supply has been carefully supervised, and there have been no complaints received.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There are now only 24 Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops upon the Register, but I anticipate that if the Milk Bill now before Parliament becomes an Act, this number will be increased. There will also have to be material improvements in their structure and surroundings.

### **Workshops.**

The 16 Workshops have been periodically inspected, together with the 60 outworkers' premises. There has been little cause for complaint as regards these premises; in fact, the only notices served have been in connection with bakehouses.

The usual Summary of Sanitary work is appended.

E. HOLLOWAY, M.Inst. M. & Cy. E., Cert. S.I. Exam. Brd.,  
Surveyor and Inspector.



Table 1.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1912 and previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Of Non-residents registered in the District	Of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1907	} 2944		81	28.0	36	12.5		1	7	86.4	37	12.5
1908			88	29.8	35	12.9		3	10	113.6	38	12.9
1909			69	23.4	29	9.8		7	2	29.0	37	12.4
1910			79	26.8	41	14.2		8	6	75.9	49	16.6
1911	3239	78	78	24.08	46	14.1	2	13	11	141.0	57	17.5
1912	3277	80	83	25.6	42	12.8	0	6	5	60.2	48	*14.6

\* The factor supplied by the Registrar General for correcting the general death rate is 0.8052.  
 Therefore the corrected death rate is  $14.6 \times 0.8052 = 11.75592$ .

Area of District in acres  
 (land and inland } 16,701  
 water).  
 Total population at all ages, 3,239  
 Number of inhabited houses, 756  
 Average number of persons per house, 4.2  
 } At Census, 1911  
 (cf. Census, Vol. V.)

Table II.  
Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1912.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality. (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the District.							Total Cases removed to Hospital	
	At all Ages	At Ages.—Years.							Ashton- under- Hill	Childswick- ham	Honey- bourne	Pebworth	Aston and Weston Subedge	Saintbury	Willersey		
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwds									
Smallpox ... ..	1										1						1
Cholera (C), Plague (P) ... ..	1			1													
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ... ..																	
Erysipelas ... ..																	
Scarlet Fever...																	
Typhus Fever																	
Enteric Fever																	
Relapsing Fever (R), Continued Fever (C) ... ..																	
Puerperal Fever																	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis																	
Poliomyelitis..																	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	5			4		1						2		1			
Totals ... ..	7			5		1	1					2	1	3		1	1

Isolation Hospital: Evesham Joint Hospital, situated near Evesham. Total available Beds, 29. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 29 Children.

**Table III.**  
**Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1912.**

CAUSES OF DEATH		Nett Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of " Residents " whether occurring within or without the District (a).							
		All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2 Years	5 and under 15 Y'rs	15 and under 25 Y'rs	25 and under 45 Y'rs	45 and under 65 Y'rs	65 and up-wards
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Causes	Certified (c) ...	45	4	2	5	1	3	2	28
	Uncertified ...	3	1	1					1
Enteric Fever ...	...								
Smallpox ...	...								
Measles ...	...								
Scarlet Fever ...	...								
Whooping Cough ...	...								
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...								
Influenza ...	...	1	1						
Erysipelas ...	...								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	...	2				1	1		
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	1			1				
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...								
Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	3							3
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	1							1
Meningitis. (See note d) ...	...								
Organic Heart Disease ...	...	8			2			1	5
Bronchitis ...	...	2	1						1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	4		2	1				1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	...								
Diarrhœa and Enteritis. (See note e) ...	...	1							1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis...	...								
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...								
Alcoholism ...	...								
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	...	2			1		1		
Puerperal Fever ...	...								
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	...								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	...								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	...	1		1					
Suicide ...	...								
Other Defined Diseases ...	...	17	3				1	1	12
Diseases Ill-defined or Unknown ...	...	5							5



### Table IV. Infant Mortality.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 m'ths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	Certified	...	1	1	1			3	1	4
	Uncertified	...				1		1		1
Smallpox ...										
Chicken-pox ...										
Measles ...										
Scarlet Fever ...										
Whooping Cough ...										
Diphtheria and Croup...										
Erysipelas...										
(Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)										
Convulsions ...										
Laryngitis...										
Bronchitis...									1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)...										
(Diarrhœa ...										
Enteritis ...										
Gastritis ...										
Syphilis ...										
Rickets ...										
Suffocation, overlying ...										
Injury at Birth ...										
Atelectasis...										
(Congenital Malformations (c)										
Premature Birth ...				1		1				2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...					1					1
Other Causes ...							1			1

Nett Births in the year : Legitimate, 83 ; Illegitimate, 7. Nett Deaths  
 in the year of Legitimate Infants, 4 ; Illegitimate Infants, 1.

# Tabular Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Work for the Year ending December 31st, 1912.

1. Housing.	Housing, Town, &c., Planning Act Regulations, 1910.	2. Water Supply.	3. Sewage and Drainage.	4. Numbers Inspected of each of the following.	5. General.	6. Infectious Diseases.
(a) Number of Plans for New Houses approved...						1
(b) Number of Houses built ... ..						2
(c) Number of Houses for which Water Certificates were granted ... ..						2
(d) Approximate Number of Houses in the District						805
(1) Number of Houses Inspected ... ..						50
(2) Number of Houses with Defects for which Notices were necessary ... ..						29
(3) Number of Houses for which Notices were served Under other Sections of Public Health Acts ...						23
(4) Number of Houses Unfit for Habitation ...						9   Remedied 7
(5) Number of Closing Orders ... ..						3   Made Habitable 1
(6) Number of Demolition Orders ... ..						...   Houses affected...
(e) Number of cases of Overcrowding reported ...						5   Number abated 4
(f) Number of Houses Cleansed on notice ...						7
Number of New Connections with Public Supply						2
Number of Wells Sunk or improved sources of supply provided ... ..						0
Drains Laid or Relaid ... ..						8
Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated ... ..						9
Number of W.C.'s newly supplied with flushing cisterns... ..						2
Number of Water Closets, Earth Closets, Pail Closets or Improved Privies constructed						19
Number of Privies Repaired, &c....						11
Slaughter Houses ... ..					No. on Reg.	No. Inspected
Bakehouses ... ..					1	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops ... ..					5	5
Workshops ... ..					24	24
Residences of Out-workers ... ..					13	13
(a) Total Number of Inspections made					60	43
Nuisances reported... ..					197	
Swine... ..					31	
(b) Total Number of Nuisances abated					3	
(c) Total Number of Preliminary Notices served and Letters written ... ..					30	
(d) Total Number of Statutory Notices served ...					119	
(e) Total Number of Summonses taken out ...					26	
(f) Total Number of Convictions ... ..					...	
(g) Total Number of Letters received ... ..					66	
(a) Number of Cases Visited and reported on ...					1	
(b) Number of Houses in which cases occurred ...					1	
(c) Number of Houses Disinfected ... ..					4	
(d) Methods of Disinfection used ... ..					Formalin, Vapour and Spraying	

(Signed) **E. HOLLOWAY**, Cert. S.I. Exam. Brd. (Lond.),

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.